

Children's Newspaper

Threepence Weekly

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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JUST TWO

Prince Charles, whose birthday is November 14, greets the world from his garden wall

DETECTIVE AT ZIMBABWE

A FORMER detective who has become intensely interested in the problem of who built the mysterious ruins of Zimbabwe, in Southern Rhodesia, has found an important clue as to their age: two pieces of wood beneath the inner walls of the temple in the ruins.

The detective is Mr S. D. Sandes, formerly a CID inspector and now Curator of the ruins, who finds that trying to unravel the mystery of Zimbabwe is as fascinating as any problem in crime detection.

Not long ago he was walking one evening between the eerie

massive walls of the Parallel Passage in the temple when his observant eye caught a glimpse of the wood.

The two pieces have been unearthed, and they will be sent to the United States, where their age can be determined by a new method of finding the age of organic materials.

Up to the present, estimates of the age of the temple have varied between 300 and 1000 years. Now it will be known when the temple was built, which will be, perhaps, a step forward on the road towards identifying the people who built it.

WHIRLED IN A ROUNDABOUT AT 70 MPH

SOLVING HIGH-SPEED PROBLEMS

How cold and how uncomfortable would you be at 50,000 feet? How much oxygen would you need? How much heat can you stand, or how fast can you whirl round in circles without "blacking-out"?

A collection of strange devices to answer these unusual but vital questions is hidden away in a colony of neat white buildings in Avenue Road, Toronto, in the Province of Ontario.

This is the home of the Institute of Aviation Medicine, an organisation of the Royal Canadian Air Force which studies the increasing demands imposed by modern aircraft on the physical powers of their crews.

Problems confronting the Institute are investigated by machines which reproduce the actual conditions met by pilots.

One of these is a giant accelerator built to test human reactions to centrifugal forces—known to fighter pilots as "G." The accelerator takes the form of a revolving car which can reach a speed of 70 m p h in 2½ seconds.

Anti-G Suit

During high-speed turns, and when pulling out of dives the centrifugal force tends to draw the blood from the brain and cause "blacking-out." During the war the Institute developed the first anti-G suit, which restricted the rush of blood. Columns of gas or fluid contained in the suit's rubber lining give a compensating pressure and allow normal circulation. Suits of this type are in wide use today.

Another device is a decompression chamber to study problems concerning the reduction of oxygen at great heights. Added realism to this chamber, which can simulate conditions at 50,000 feet, is provided by a refrigeration unit. Temperatures can be reduced to 70 degrees below zero Fahrenheit.

At the other end of the scale is a hot room in which equipment and humans can be subjected to tropical temperatures.

Are You An Isikawoti?

DR CLEMENT DOKE, professor in Bantu studies at the Witwatersrand University, has started on an English-Zulu dictionary, and he hopes to have it finished by 1960.

He says it would be quite an easy job were it not for the great number of new words that have been taken over from English and Afrikaans.

Examples are "isikole" for "school," and "imotokale" for motor-car. A cab is "amakebe," and although a Boy Scout might be surprised and amused to hear himself addressed as "isikawoti," the affinity to the English word is clear.

Dr Doke's new work will contain about 60,000 words.

THANKS FOR THE LIFT

THIRTY years ago Mr and Mrs Tyson and their daughter, of Los Angeles, were driving to a picnic on the beach when they gave a lift to a stranger. The man spent the day with them, then departed, and the Tysons heard or saw no more of him.

Now Mr and Mrs Tyson and their daughter have learned that in the will of a Mr Babonet they had been left nearly £36,000 in thanks for their kindness to a stranger—the man to whom they had given a lift!

Scientists Delving Into the Young Red Sea

THE Red Sea has been chosen for a biological study this winter because it is a "very young sea," its connection with the Indian Ocean probably being only nine or ten million years old!

The study of the Red Sea's wild life is being directed by a Natural History Museum scientist, Mr N. B. Marshall, in a yacht (Manahine) fitted with trawls for dragging up samples of marine life, the purpose of the expedition being to study the rate of evolution of different species of sea creatures.

The Red Sea is particularly suitable for this study because the narrowness and shallowness of the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb—where the Red Sea joins the Indian Ocean—act as barriers to living things in the great ocean outside. The creatures living in the Red Sea are thus to a great extent shut off from those in the oceans, and this isolation is believed to speed evolution.

Studying Evolution

The great extremes of climate which the world has experienced during the last million years must have had a much greater effect on the Red Sea (which is almost a land-locked lake) than on the oceans, and this also may have favoured rapid evolution, many of the Red Sea's inhabitants having to adapt themselves to changing conditions more quickly than those outside.

On the other hand, there is very little difference in temperature between the surface layers and the deepest layers of water in the Red Sea; unlike the ocean, where there is great difference in temperature at various depths. This means that creatures needing a wide range in temperature would not survive in the Red Sea.

It is expected that a detailed comparison of life in the Red Sea with that in the Indian Ocean will reveal something of the extent and direction of evolution.

GIFTS FOR THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS



These Swindon schoolboys are making miniature garden tools and a wheelbarrow for Prince Charles. The girls are making five sets of doll's clothes for Princess Anne. The gifts have been accepted by Princess Elizabeth on the occasion of her visit to Swindon for the celebration of its jubilee as a borough.



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BLOWN OUT

A 13-foot tiger shark caught at Collaroy Beach, New South Wales, contained among other things a bicycle pump!

How the pump came to get into the stomach of this shark nobody will ever know. Perhaps it was dropped on the beach at low tide.

It took three men to catch this pump-eating tiger shark.

Getting Rid of the Trade Barriers

REPRESENTATIVES of nearly two-score countries and their dependent territories have now settled down for a stay of several months at Torquay to talk about international trade and tariffs. Although few of us really understand these technical debates, we shall all be affected by the decisions which follow.

It is easy to see why the Torquay Conference is so important. The participating countries at the moment number 39, including the self-governing members of the British Commonwealth, Asiatic, American, and European States, Western Germany among them. They are responsible for importing or exporting four out of every five tons of goods concerned in international trade. Thus, decisions made by the present Conference will have far-reaching effects on world trade and, therefore, on our prosperity.

Every progressive country wishes to trade more with the rest of the world. But world trade is not as simple as trade within one country. There are greater distances to be overcome; and differences in language, currency, and numerous other things which tend to hamper rather than help trade. Other hurdles to be negotiated are customs duties, quotas, import licences, and so on. It is with these Government-

made obstacles that the Torquay Conference is trying to deal.

No fewer than 400 pairs of countries will be negotiating at the same time for the lowering of tariffs—that is, laws governing the level of customs duties. This alone will mean a tremendous saving of time and effort. If successful, the new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT for short) will mean that more goods will be crossing the coasts and frontiers of many countries for the benefit of their people.

But this is only part of the picture of what the Conference has to do. The members will also investigate the effect of the present Far Eastern situation on trade. They will discuss, too, a matter which has recently become of great importance to all industries—how to prevent a scramble for much-needed and scarce raw materials. A further point to engage their attention will be the Schuman Plan and its effect on world trade.

Your C N

THE Editor regrets that despite the great efforts which are being made to speed production it may be some little time before the C N is available on its normal day of sale.

You can ensure receiving your copy as soon as each issue is published by placing an order with your newsagent to deliver *Children's Newspaper* each week until further notice.

WILL you please do this, and also ask your friends who may not have been able to obtain C N lately to do the same.

One Exhibition to Another

LONDON's famous Albert Memorial in Kensington Gardens has just been inspected by the Ministry of Works, and repairs are to be carried out before next year's Festival of Britain, the centenary of the Great Exhibition of 1851. The book held in the hand of the statue of the Consort is a catalogue of the Great Exhibition in which he took great practical interest.

It took twenty years to build the memorial, and of the £100,000 which it cost half was given by the public and the other half raised by taxation. It was erected for Queen Victoria in commemoration of the Prince Consort, and for its design Sir Gilbert Scott received his knighthood.

J. H. Foley was responsible for the colossal bronze statue of Albert, weighing ten tons, which is seated under a roof decorated with 12,000 gilt stones. Round the base of the monument are sculptures in high relief of 169 famous people, including Cervantes and Virgil, Chaucer and Milton, Handel and Mozart, Rembrandt and Gainsborough, Wren and Inigo Jones, Donatello and Michael Angelo.

"Showing" Models to the Blind

A SPECIAL exhibition for blind people is open at the Science Museum, South Kensington, until December 10.

Popular scientific and engineering models, with descriptive labels in Braille, are set out so that blind visitors can gain an impression of them by feeling them with their hands. There are also printed labels which escorts of sightless folks can read for the benefit of those not proficient in Braille.

DICK TURPIN RIDES AGAIN

DICK TURPIN's ride to York is to be filmed again.

It was hoped to take scenes on some of the actual locations associated with Dick Turpin, but too many traces appear of modern life, such as electric cables, telephone poles, and boxes; so it has been decided to use a park near Rye in Sussex for the purpose.

LESSONS OF KOREA'S FLAG

KOREA's flag is unique among the world's national banners because it symbolises philosophical ideas probably derived from Confucianism.

The circle in the middle of the flag, with two curved divisions inside it, represents the idea of the essential unity of everything that exists. The curved divisions, the top one blue and the bottom red, are called Yang and Yin, and they represent the eternal contrast between things, such as good and evil, night and day, life and death, beauty and ugliness, and so on.

The rest of the flag is white with black bars in the corners. These bars have many meanings, including moral lessons, such as the weaker (two short bars) should be protected by the

NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

HE CAUGHT A HOLIDAY

Landing the heaviest cod of the day—9 lbs 8 ozs—at a week-end fishing contest at Folkestone, Alan Taylor (14) of Folkestone was allowed to go fishing again on the Monday instead of going to school.

Fourteen-year-old David Kaye, of Sheffield, has become Britain's youngest glider pilot to qualify for "A" and "B" certificates. His father has been gliding since 1934.

The number of Maori school-children in New Zealand is increasing. Last year there were 30,000 out of a Maori population of 115,000.

Three boats were wrecked when the rays of a lighthouse in Denmark were dimmed by an earwig trapped in the burner.

Mixed Audience

When the Bishop of London dedicated a new P.D.S.A. ambulance his audience included the pigeon which brought the first D-Day message from the Normandy beaches, as well as Irma and Psycho, two Aleutians used in raid rescue work during the war.

A record number of about 80,000 British emigrants will go to Australia next year.

A recent Australian tea-drinking competition was won by a Melbourne baker, who drinks 90 cups of tea every day.

Norway is to take part in the Isle of Man's historic festivals next summer. The Isle of Man belonged to the kings of Norway from the end of the ninth century until the 13th.

WAS THERE SOMETHING?

A small boy who pulled the communication cord of a Lewes-Haywards Heath train told the magistrate that he thought he was calling the restaurant-car attendant for a cup of tea. His case was dismissed.

By using a pedometer it has been found that an usherette in a Sydenham cinema walks 904 miles a year showing people to their seats.

Australia has between 110 million and 120 million sheep which produce annually about 1115 million lbs of wool.

Coal seams have been discovered in Northern Rhodesia, in the wild country of the Gwembi Valley.

Shining Example

When Mr George Rothwell, a Doncaster window-cleaner, fell ill the other day, fifteen other Doncaster window-cleaners worked on Saturday afternoons to cover his round so that he should not suffer financial loss.

In six weeks, Inspector Percy Bashford of the Dumb Friends' League, rescued from an eight-foot-deep water tank outside his house at Hampstead 15 dogs, several cats, and a few children. Now the tank has a new trap-door.

Russia has agreed to supply Great Britain with 300,000 tons of maize, 425,000 tons of barley, and 75,000 tons of oats.



This new boat, made of glass fibre, is strong enough to have an out-board motor attached. Part of the equipment is a harness for carrying the boat overland.

Malaria experts are to meet at Kampala for a fortnight's conference on November 27. The malaria committee of the World Health Organisation believes that results achieved in checking the scourge in other parts of the world should also be possible in tropical Africa.

The 2242 clubs affiliated to the National Association of Girls' Clubs and Mixed Clubs now have a membership of 152,705.

Two Southern Rhodesian natives, Mchenke and Karikoga, have been awarded the decoration of the Silver Oak Leaves for their bravery in risking their lives on the flooded Zambesi when going to fetch help after a landslide.

A beautiful moth, never previously known in the British Isles, has been discovered in the mountains of County Clare, Eire. It is the *Luceria virens*, and is about 1½ inches wide. Its wings are emerald green with brown and white fringes.

FREE WEEK

Tenants of council houses at Billericay, Essex, are to be encouraged to keep their homes clean and bright by a grant of one rent-free week a year.

Measure for Measure, performed recently in Berlin by the Stratford-on-Avon Shakespeare Memorial Theatre Company, was enthusiastically received.

A new petroleum-based fungicide developed by the American Petroleum Institute is claimed as the nearest approach yet made to a universal weapon against plant diseases.

All organisations wishing to arrange home-to-home exchanges with Belgium in 1951 should get in touch with La Jeunesse Belge à l'Etranger, 11 rue d'Egmont, Brussels, Belgium. An International Youth Conference is being held at Brussels next summer, and young people between 14 and 20 may apply to the same address for details.

Brave Men of Peace

FROM two different parts of the Colonial Empire comes news proving the old adage that peace has its heroes no less renowned than war.

Thomas Ince and Stanley Sutherland, who live in the West Indian Island of St Vincent, displayed courage and resource when an electrician with whom they were working took hold of a live high-tension wire. Ince climbed up to the spot, cut the wire in the now-unconscious victim's grasp with insulated pliers, and as the man overbalanced succeeded in catching him.

Sutherland at once climbed to help Ince, and together they supported the injured man until the current was switched off and they could move without fear of touching any other wires.

To Thomas Ince went the British Empire Medal, and to his companion the King's Commendation.

EQUALLY brave was Mr Kanda

Msiko, a native gang-leader at a copper mine in Northern Rhodesia. With one European and one native companion, Msiko was engaged in preparations for blasting operations 1380 feet below ground. When the "shots" started exploding prematurely, both of Msiko's companions were seriously injured.

Himself suffering from minor wounds and severe shock, Msiko managed to reach a place of safety 300 feet away, only to find that the two others had been unable to follow him. Despite smoke, fumes, flying rock, and the fact that explosions were still taking place, Msiko twice returned to the mine face to rescue his helpless companions.

Msiko's bravery, described as "an example of the highest courage to us all," won him the coveted George Medal.

STAMP NEWS

DENMARK has issued a "Children's Welfare" stamp bearing a portrait of young Princess Anne-Marie. The stamp carries a surcharge to help young Danes.

A new pictorial stamp on sale in Canada shows a typical Red Indian village.

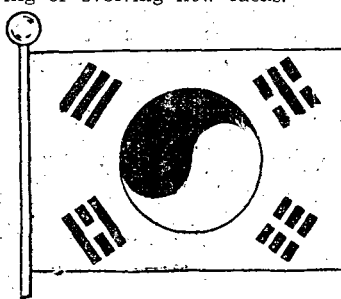
ITALY has issued a stamp in commemoration of the bicentenary of the Venetian Academy of Arts.

ICELAND has issued a set of eight new definitive stamps dealing with her industries. Two other new stamps commemorate Jon Arason, last Catholic bishop of Iceland, who was killed by the King of Denmark 400 years ago for refusing to accept the Reformation.

THE Mansfeld copper mines in Germany have been working since 1200, and the fact has been recorded on two stamps of the Eastern Republic of Germany.

First Americans?

AN archaeological expedition to the Arctic, led by a professor from Pennsylvania University, has reported finding traces of the earliest North American migrants who are thought to have come across the Bering Straits from Asia to Alaska. The discovery is thought to provide confirmation of an old theory that the first inhabitants were primitive nomads.



GERMANY'S NEW BELLS

A BELL competition is to be held next spring at Limburg in Prussia to determine the pattern for new bells to replace many destroyed in the war.

About 130,000 bells were removed from churches in Germany and occupied territory and taken to copper foundries to be melted down. But the oldest—some 700 years—and most valuable were exempted and have survived. Most of these have been returned to their churches. But while they were still in Hamburg, where they had originally been taken, they were catalogued and three hundred of the finest in shape and tone were studied by experts.

It is from the results of this study that various foundries are to cast bells in different alloys; and these bells will take part in the competition next spring for purity and duration of tone. The winners will form the pattern for the many replacements needed.

CURBING LAKE CHAD

FOLLOWING a Government survey, efforts are to be made to reclaim land on the Nigerian shore of Lake Chad, which lies between that colony and French West Africa. The lake, covering some 20,000 square miles, is relatively shallow.

In the dry season the southwest wind blows the waters over the French side, but when the wind changes to the opposite direction the waters are blown again to the Nigerian side and cause considerable flooding.

The proposed scheme would control these "tides" by a dyke and sluice gates.

See Map below

THIS WAS A MAN

His life was gentle and the elements
So mixed in him that nature might stand up
And say to all the world, "This was a man."

THIS quotation from Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* is to be inscribed on a pedestal to be erected on the summit of Table Mountain in memory of Field-Marshal Smuts. His favourite path to the summit is to be renamed "Jan Smuts Track."

GUARDING THE ALBATROSS

ROYAL albatrosses mostly build their nests on uninhabited islands south of New Zealand, but one colony has established itself on the mainland, on the Otago Peninsula, near Dunedin.

Unfortunately there are always some people who might disturb the albatross colony, so a wild-life officer is to be on duty all the year round near the breeding ground. The Dunedin Rotary Club is raising £2500 toward the cost of keeping a guardian for the next five years. The Government will appoint the officer and pay the rest of the cost.

SCOTTISH AIR PIONEER

A NEW aircraft, called the Prestwick Pioneer, is the first to be designed and built in Scotland. It may soon be used to transport scientists on the Woomera rocket range in Australia.

Powered by a 520 h.p. engine, the Pioneer seats up to four passengers and makes use of large, bat-like flaps to obtain its remarkably short landing and take-off characteristics.



Electronic Organ

This oddly shaped instrument is an electronic organ, operated by valves similar to those in radio and television sets.

THE SWAHILI BIBLE ARRIVES

THE arrival of the New Testament printed in the Swahili language has created great interest in East Africa. Swahili is spoken by many thousands living between the East African coast and the Congo river.

The first edition of 50,000 was sold out long before the copies reached the villages. The news had spread in the secret ways peculiar to Africa. Now the Bible Society is preparing another 50,000 copies, and the total cost will be £15,000.

It is expected that only about £4000 will be received in payments for the copies, because a book of the size of the New Testament would be too expensive for village Africans to buy.

LONG ACRES

IN the United States is probably the longest farm in the world; it is 800 miles long but only 50 feet wide. This ribbon-like farm is the land over the route of an oil company's pipeline. Crops have been planted along its entire length.

The idea of growing crops over the pipe-line is to promote soil conservation, to encourage owners of land adjacent to the pipeline to cultivate their holdings, and to improve the value of the company's land.

FROM MAGPIE TO MUSEUM

THE other day a scientist at Sydney Museum found two thin, snake-like creatures undigested in the stomach of a magpie.

Upon expert examination, the devoured creatures turned out to be extremely rare specimens of a legless lizard, no thicker than a Number 12 knitting needle. Only two specimens have been found during the past 90 years.

So Sydney Museum has joined the Philadelphia Museum of Science and the Museum at Perth, Western Australia, in the distinction of being able to display a *Pletholax gracilis*, the scientific name of this lizard.

WILLIAM MORRIS GALLERY

A WILLIAM MORRIS GALLERY has been opened in the Water House in Lloyd Park, Walthamstow. This Georgian house was Morris's home during boyhood, and was presented to the public at the beginning of the century. The gallery just opened contains autograph letters, manuscripts, and designs for stained glass.

WHERE LAYAMON WAS PRIEST

THE church of Areley Kings, Worcestershire, has just been scheduled as a historical and architectural monument.

This is the church where one of our earliest poets once ministered—none other than Layamon, author of *Brut*, a poetical chronicle of legendary British history from the coming of Brut till the year 688. It was written about the end of the 12th century, and the manuscript is in the British Museum. An inscription on the ancient base of the font—"Tempore Lazamanni Santi"—suggests that the parishioners canonised their poet-priest.

Among other interesting relics in the church is a stone inscribed to William Walsh, who died in 1702; it states that he was "ruinated by three Quackers, two lawyers, and a fanatic to help them."

Details of a new PAINTING COMPETITION with a TV set among the prizes will appear on this page next week. Order your CN now.

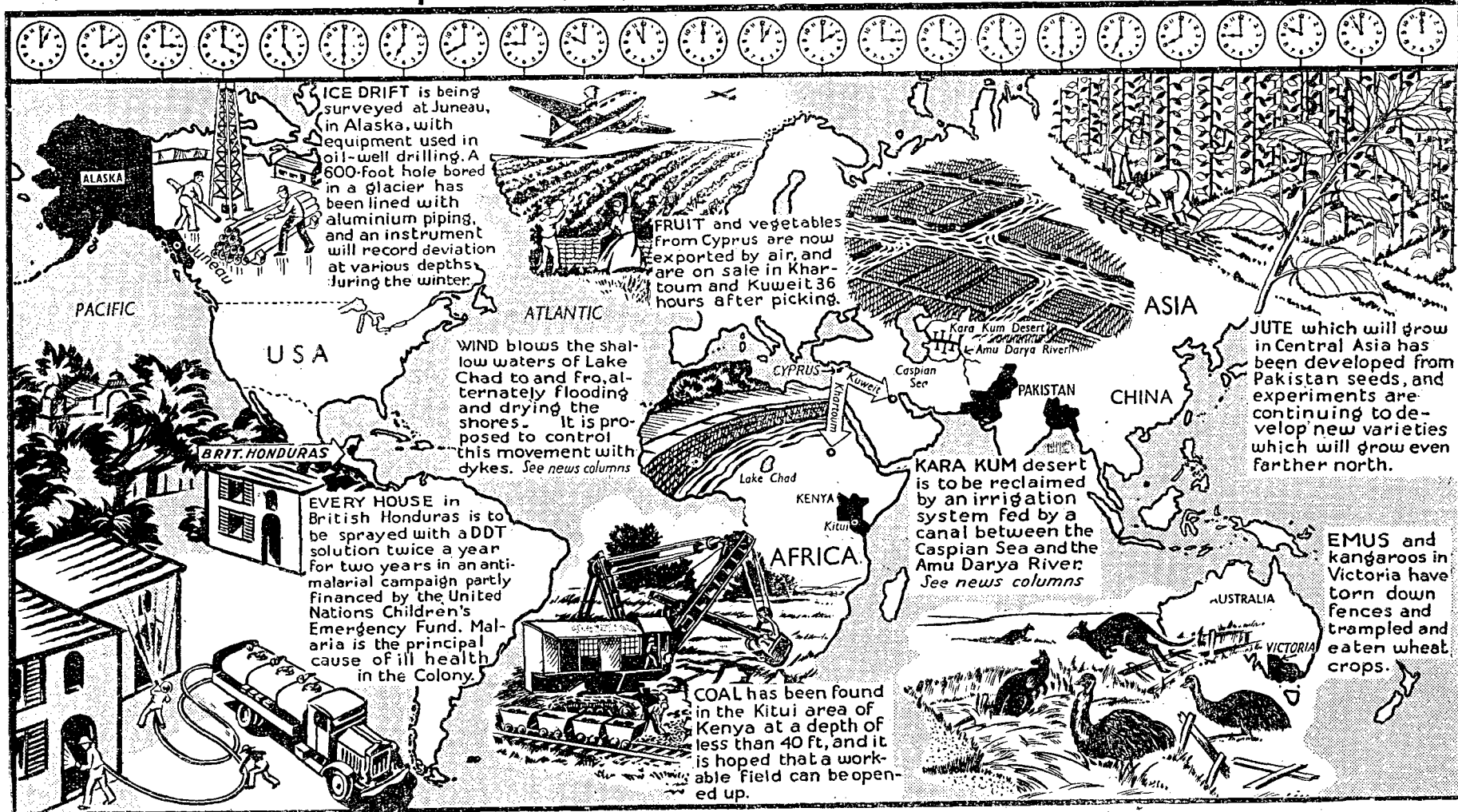
FERTILE DESERT

A PROJECT to reclaim most of the 110,000 square miles of the Kara Kum desert in Russia by means of a vast irrigation system is to be started next year and is expected to be ready by 1958.

Water will be fed by a 650-mile-long canal running eastwards from the Caspian Sea to the Amu Darya River to supply 3,100,000 acres of cotton and 15 million acres of pasture land. Three dams with power stations will also be built. See Map below

CN Picture-News Map

The clocks on this map show time all over the world. Sunlight travels westward round the Earth. At noon in Greenwich for every 15 degrees east the day is one hour older, and for every 15 degrees west the day is one hour younger.



ERIC GILLETT this week writes about . . .

TWO CHEERFUL FILMS

THE BBC comes in for a great deal of criticism (much of it quite undeserved), but let us be thankful that it spares us the extravagant methods of American radio.

In USA there are various broadcasting organisations financed largely by advertisers. Now the American company 20th Century-Fox have made one of them the subject of an extremely funny satire, *The Jackpot*.

The screenplay is really well done, and if the director, Walter Lang, had been a little more restrained in his treatment, this would be an outstanding comic picture. As it is, it made me laugh more than I have done in a cinema for some time.

Bill Lawrence, played by James Stewart, is a senior official in a large store in an American town. He lives happily with his wife Amy (Barbara Hale) and their two children. One day Bill gets a telephone message to say he has been selected as a contestant for a competition in that evening's radio programme.

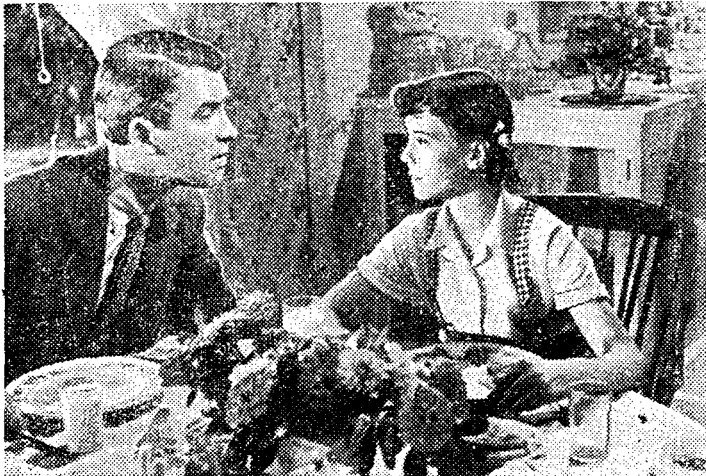
He wins the prize—goods to the value of £4800. They include a three-year supply of frozen food,

where he finds another little boy, Kit (Michael Brooke, Jnr), playing with a large magnet. He swaps it for an "invisible watch."

Soon afterwards Johnny feels remorse for the trick he has played on Kit. He tries to get rid of the magnet, and at last gives it to a man who is making a model of an iron lung as part of a campaign to buy a real one. This man is moved by what he considers to be Johnny's unselfish action. The local mayor says that the boy must be found and presented with the civic medal because he has been so generous.

All kinds of complications follow. The cameras seem to move all over Merseyside, and there are some most amusing and exciting incidents before everything comes right in the end.

The Magnet is really a boys' picture. William Fox, Michael Brooke Jnr, Keith Robinson, David Boyd, and Thomas Johnstone are all excellent. Among the grown-ups, Stephen Murray, Kay Walsh, Meredith Edwards, and Julien Mitchell take all the chances they are given, but it is the boys who matter. Charles Frend has directed them admir-



James Stewart in a scene from *The Jackpot*

a pony, a portable swimming-bath, a dozen wrist-watches, a caravan, a diamond ring, a grand piano, and other bulky objects.

An expert designer is to redecorate his house; a famous artist calls to paint his portrait.

At first Bill and his wife are overjoyed, but when the entire house and garden are filled with huge packing-cases and the designer begins to move his furniture out of the house he realises that there are disadvantages. He is also dismayed to find he has to pay a tax of £1500 on his prize, as he has only £100 in the bank.

James Stewart gives a splendid study of the bewildered and sorely-harassed Bill, and incident follows incident with excellent humorous effect. Here and there dull patches occur, but they are few, and *The Jackpot* is that rare thing—a successful comic film.

A DELIGHTFUL and amusing British film, *The Magnet*, has been directed by Charles Frend. The screen play is by T. E. B. Clarke, and Sir Michael Balcon, with the help of Sidney Cole, was in charge of the production.

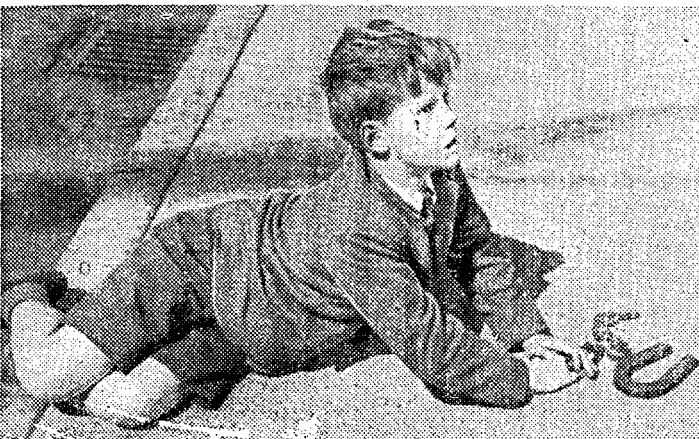
This is the story of Johnny Brent (William Fox), a ten-year-old boy, who has to stay at home, near Liverpool, because there is scarlet fever at his school. One day he goes down to the beach,

ably, and the result is another Ealing Studios success. *The Magnet* should be very popular.

A NEW British cartoon documentary, *As Old As The Hills*, won a well-deserved prize at the Venice Film Festival. It is in Technicolor, and shows how oil was born millions of years ago.

It begins with innumerable sea creatures and plants shut in on the bed of the ocean. Oil particles float up and are trapped in rocks formed many years later. Finally, the oil accumulated among the mountains of what is now South-West Persia.

It is all lively and ingenious.



Johnny (William Fox) testing his magnet

THE HUT MAN on Getting to Know the Countryside . . .

A TALK ABOUT COLLECTING

LET us begin at the beginning.

as the King of Hearts commanded the White Rabbit, and discover why we should collect; and as these talks are about the countryside we will think only of collections of country things. Why should we collect grasses or wild flowers or tree leaves or any of the many other fascinating things to be found by wayside and woodland?

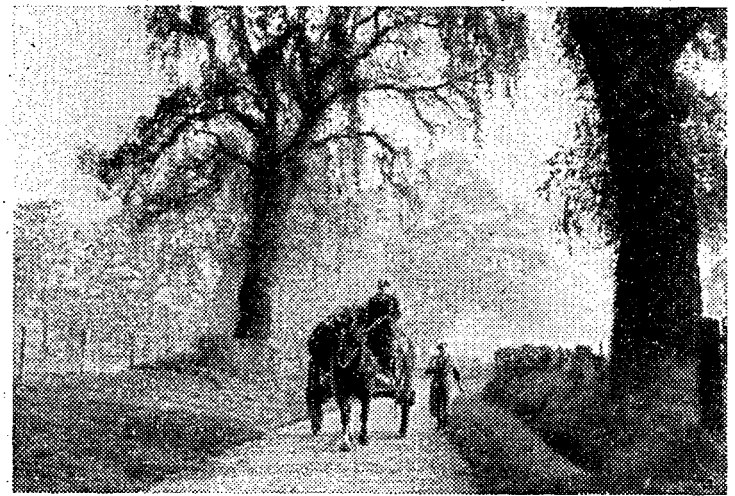
There are people who collect such things simply to see how great a variety they can gather together and that is all: they have no interest in getting to know about the things in their collections. We naturalists, however, will agree that this form of collecting is rather silly and has very little value. If we are going to collect it should be to help us learn even more about some section or other of the countryside in which we are already interested.

In the first of these talks we learned the importance of keeping notes, and notes should also be an important feature of our collection. Every specimen we add should have its card containing full information as to the place, date, and time at which the specimen was found. A collection of this kind is really worth while, and its preparation will give us far greater interest and satisfaction than the mere massing together of specimens about which we know little or nothing.

Of course we shall want our collections to be neatly mounted and arranged, for there is nothing more pathetic than specimens carelessly thrown into a box or hastily and untidily fastened with stamp edging to the pages of an old exercise book. Let us see, then, how the different things we collect should be preserved so that their beauty will be retained for the longest time and be best displayed for future reference.

Wild flowers, including the leaves as well, should be pressed between three or four thicknesses of soft, good-quality blotting-paper, and mounting should not be undertaken till they are thoroughly dry and brittle. When ready for mounting the specimen should stand straight out when lifted from the blotting-paper by the end of the stem.

The best plan is to mount each flower on a separate piece of stout cardboard. Suitable cards can be bought at a good stationer's, and if we get them tinted in different colours it will add considerably to the appearance of our collection.



Autumn in an Essex lane

Some collectors use different sizes of cards, cutting them to suit the specimens, but for easy handling it is best to keep to one size, giving a large flower a card to itself and mounting two or more smaller blossoms together; but never crowd specimens.

THE ideal mounting material is the clear, sticky tape sold for repairing torn music, small pieces being cut to fasten the specimens down after their stems, flowers, and leaves have been neatly arranged on the card. Then, as further protection, a sheet of thin cellulose wrapping is placed over the mounted specimen; and narrow edges folded over and glued to the back of the card.

All notes regarding the specimen should be written neatly on the back of the card, the only writing on the face being reference numbers when more than one flower is mounted on the same card. A collection prepared in this way can be neatly stacked away, either in a box to fit the cards, or in a corner of the "collection drawer" or cupboard shelf; or holes can be punched close to one edge and the cards loosely bound together so that they can be turned over, book form.

GRASSES, rushes, and sedges usually require larger cards if we are going to show the full stem complete with its leaves. Very long grasses should be neatly bent over and mounted on the card in the shape of a letter V or W.

It is surprising how many flower-lovers collect only the flowerheads of plants, forgetting all about the important leaves; and how many tree-lovers collect only the leaves and know little about the other parts which make up a tree.

Each tree should be given a card to itself, and on this we should mount a pressed leaf, a twig showing bud formation, a portion of bark from the trunk (where this can be got without damaging the tree) and, where possible, a specimen of the flower and fruit. In the case of bulky fruits, such as pine cones, a neat plan is to divide the fruit with a sharp saw, gluing one half to the card. A delightful idea, if we have a camera, is to photograph each tree, first in winter and then, from the same spot, in summer, mounting the photographs on the back of the card.

IN a short talk like this it is not possible to list all the fascinating things to be found and collected during country walks—curious stones and pebbles, interesting specimens of river sand and gravel, nutshells gnawed by small animals, and ever so many others. An old bookcase with glass doors is an ideal "museum" for such a varied collection, and will look pleasantly professional with white paper lining the shelves and small printed cards for each exhibit; but, failing this, the drawers of a chest will keep our collection free from dust and harm.

A Duck For Christmas

A NOVEL form of Christmas present is one that enables the receiver to adopt a duck—not a duck for the festive board, but one that may be winging its way over the frozen forests of northern Russia, or seeking a warmer climate far from British Christmas dinner tables.

This Christmas-present duck carries round its leg a numbered aluminium ring, put on at a ringing station in Britain of the International Wild Fowl Committee. The Committee have produced a Duck Token Christmas Card, on the same lines as a book token. The token costs six shillings. It can be sent to a friend enabling him to have a ringed wild duck allocated to him, and information sent to him of its travels, if available.

Some of the ringed adopted

ducks have made immense journeys, but a few are real stay-at-homes. The only Red Crested Pochard to be ringed returned so many times to the trap that she was eventually confined for her own safety, and took to coming up to the kitchen for scraps. Who says ducks are silly? The possession of a red crest seemed to this wise bird no reason for flying over the Iron Curtain.

All kinds of people, from professors to schoolgirls and boys, are finding the Duck Adoption Scheme great fun, and even cricketers are said to be taking kindly to this kind of duck!

Information about the scheme and token cards can be obtained from the Secretary, Duck Adoption, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, S W 7.

Going to School to Learn About Trains



A class in the Craft Shop

THIS is the sort of school that boys who are keen on trains have dreamed of—a school for training lads of 15 and upwards to become locomotive engineers.

It is called the Works Training School, and is situated in the heart of another fascinating place, the vast locomotive works at Derby.

At this railway school the boys spend a year, after which they are transferred to the works as apprentices. There are 100 boys in the school who go through a thorough practical course in locomotive maintenance and engineering. They actually see new engines being built, and have a chance to try their hands at many of the jobs they will ultimately undertake on their own.

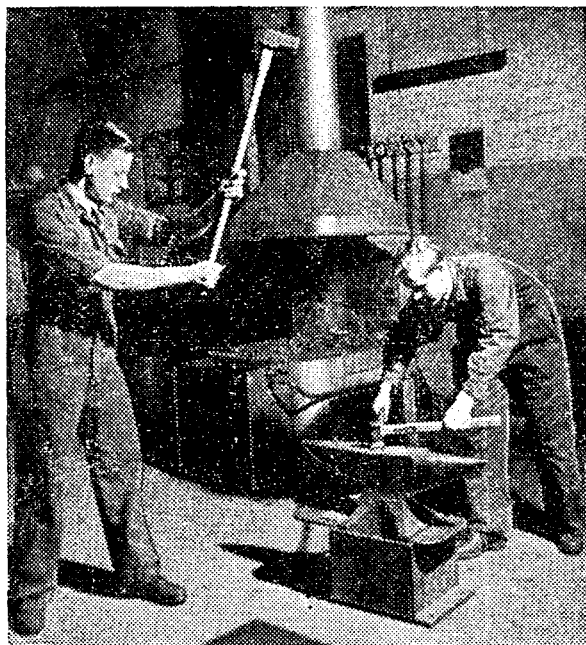
It is a full-time day school with its own class-rooms, workshops, and equipment, and some of its instructors come from the Derby Technical College.

THE boys are officially called apprentice trainees, and they receive the standard rate of pay for juniors with a weekly bonus awarded for good work.

Their studies are not entirely technical, for general subjects such as geography, history, and English composition are also taught.



A close-up of the couplings



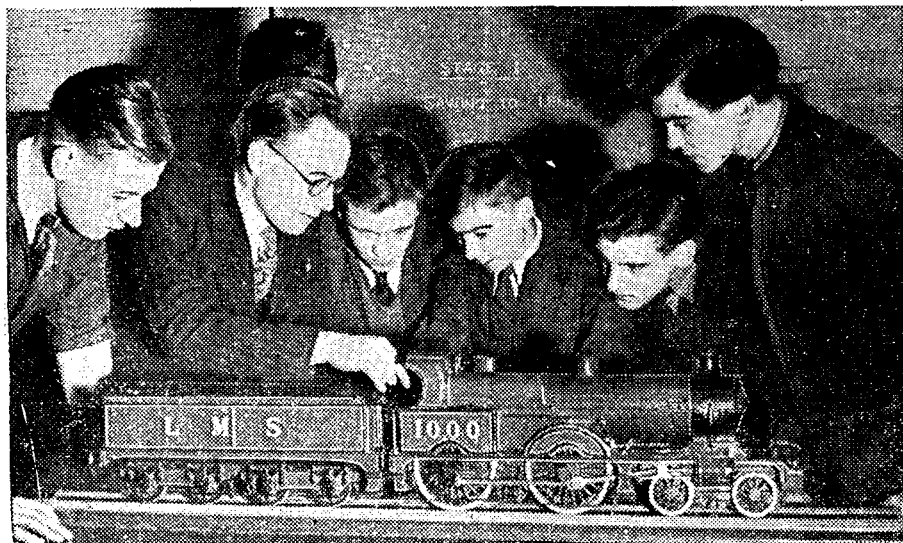
Forging



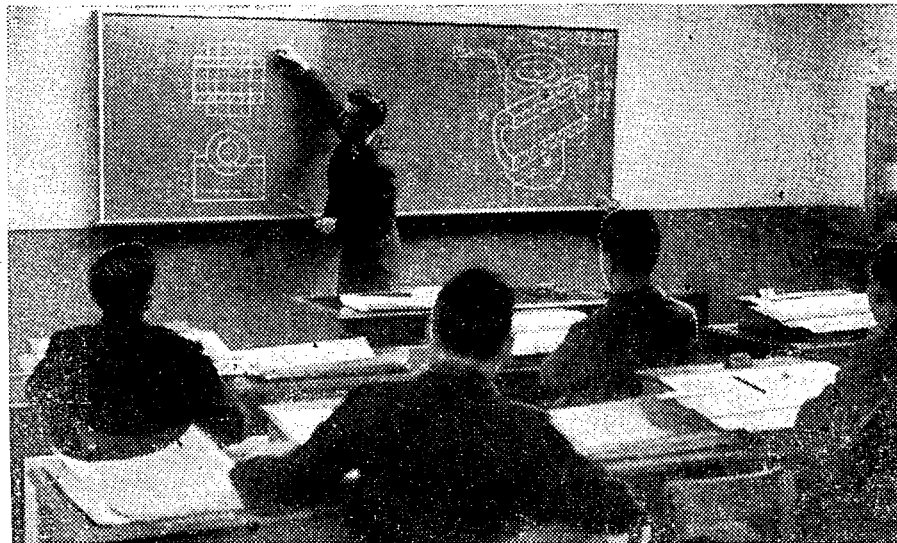
Welding



Casting



Learning the basic principles of a locomotive



An Instructor taking a class in machine drawing



Ballet For a Penny

Children of Coram's Fields, St Pancras, London, watch a "Penny Ballet," introduced as part of the Coram's Fields Foundation's Penny Concerts.

THAT EXTRA 11 MILES PER SECOND

THE speed of light in empty space has recently been discovered by Dr L. Essen of the National Physical Laboratory to amount to 186,282 miles per second. Eleven miles have thus been added to its previously accepted speed of 186,271 miles, which was the result of the elaborate experiments in 1935 of Albert A. Michelson, an American Nobel prizewinner. Dr Essen's experiment has been based upon the speed of electro-magnetic waves, which are accepted as being the same as those of light.

As a result, greater accuracy will be attainable in radar, atomic, and some astronomical calculations, but as applied to the ordinary astronomical measurements of distance, the addition of one seventeen-thousandth part to the length of a light-year will be inappreciable. For instance, the distances of the stars as expressed in light-years are not known with such minute precision for this small fraction to make any difference.

A light-year is not really a standard of astronomical measurement but, being a time constant representing length, it is useful for expressing relative distances of vast extent. The parsec, which is based upon parallax, is the standard of astronomical measurement for great distances. But in the field of radar, for which the recent experiments

were made, the exact figure will be of great value. In the original Michelson experiment, which corrected the previously held speed to 186,271 miles a second, a vacuum tube a mile long was used and a beam of light was reflected back and forth, the result being visible.

The vacuum tube used by Essen was only seven inches long and a radio wave was used and reflected from end to end, back and forth, but the result, instead of being seen, was revealed by electrical resonance. The great precision thus obtained will be of immense importance for measuring the distances of invisible objects by radar.

G. F. M.

New Planes For the World's Airways

1 The Vickers Viscount.

VICKERS VISCOUNTS will come into service with British European Airways next year, and will reach Rome from London in less than four hours non-stop. Their speed will cut the present time on the route by 2½ hours.

The Viscount is the world's first turbo-prop airliner, and the Model 701 ordered by BEA and BOAC will seat up to 40 passengers in two tastefully furnished saloons that are separated amidships by the galley. A larger version carries up to 53.

Revival of the Longhorns

AT a time when the de-horning of cattle is becoming more and more popular on farms, it is strange to find farmers becoming interested in Longhorns, a breed with horns nearly four feet wide.

Longhorn cattle, a breed which dates back to Roman times, was one of the leading breeds in the country a century or two ago. Today it is found on no more than a score of farms, but a successful experiment with a herd on Howden Moor is leading farmers in the Midlands to consider stocking them.

Among the farmers who are planning to revive the Longhorn is Mr T. B. Johnson of Rectory Farm, Great Easton, in Leicestershire, and although he has still only a few, already he has received orders for young bulls from South Africa and Canada.

A Great Experiment

It is appropriate that interest in the breed is being shown in Leicestershire, for it was at Dishley in this county that the breed was improved to a great extent in the 18th century.

At Dishley Thomas Bakewell improved both the quality of the beef and the rate of fattening, and proved that the breed was capable of being fattened on little more food than that afforded by Midland pastures. He died, however, before his work was complete, and not long after his death Longhorn cattle were being used merely for drawing carts and wagons.

Not until the last year of the 19th century was any real interest in the Longhorn again shown. Whether the interest now being shown will spread remains to be seen.

The Editors Table

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

PRINCE CHARLES is now two years old and birthday greetings have been coming to him from every part of the world.

It is a great occasion for him, for being two means that you are growing up, and taking more than a little notice of the great world in which you live; and there is no doubt that Prince Charles is a lively boy with all the interests and eagerness of a typical two-year-old.

This little Prince who will one day be King lives amid happiness with his little sister, beloved by a mother and father who know that home life is the best life of all. He is surrounded, too, by the affections of millions of loyal subjects of the Crown to whom his growing-up is a constant source of interest and pride.

In saluting Prince Charles the C N speaks for a host of children everywhere. Many Happy Returns!

WELCOME BUT STILL INADEQUATE

IT is good news that the teachers of Britain's children are to receive higher salaries from April next, but it is widely recognised that the increase is so long overdue that it is already out of date.

Most teachers love teaching, and do their job because they like doing it; but they have to live in a world where everything costs more, and although the thirty shillings a week rise will be welcome, we still must consider it inadequate.

We in Britain believe in education, and want the very best for our children. This means that we must have the best teachers, for it is through the teachers that the children are inspired to love learning. The teachers, indeed, have the future in their hands even more than the politicians and statesmen, so it is essential that their lives should be free from undue worry about ways and means.

Teachers give of their best to the nation's children; the nation should do its utmost for the teachers.

SAVE THESE CHILDREN

BY revealing the plight of millions of young war victims, Unesco has flung down a challenge to the civilised world.

In Europe there are still 60 million orphaned, displaced, homeless, and maimed children, according to Unesco's *War Handicapped Children: Report on the European Situation* (Stationery Office, 3s). Throughout the world, it is estimated, 250 million children are starving.

The future of civilisation may depend on whether the nations can take action together now to rescue these suffering citizens of the future.

Translation, Please!

A PRIZE example of Officialese, that strange language in which some Government officials indulge, was read at a recent meeting at Horsham, Sussex. It was taken from a Government publication, and reads:

"In the Nuts (Unground) (Other Than Groundnuts) Ord the expression nuts shall ha reference to such nuts, other th groundnuts, as would but f this amending order, not quali as nuts (unground) (other th groundnuts) by reason of the not being nuts (unground)."

When is a nut not a nut seen to be the general sense (if any of this paragraph.

KING AND CROWN PRINCE



The new King of Sweden with his grandson, the Crown Prince, four-year-old Carl Gustav.

RIGHT LEARNING

A SOUND and steady appreciation of the difference between right and wrong, true and false, beautiful and ugly, is so important to me to be more important than information about the distance of the Sun from the Earth or about the names of the kings of Judah.

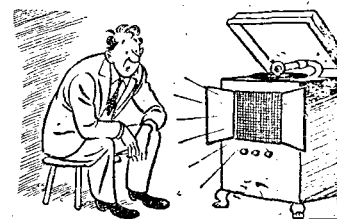
J. F. Wolfenden, Vice-Chancellor of Reading University

Under the

PEOPLE who eat nuts in the cinema are a nuisance, says a correspondent. He would rather he comedians crack jokes.

WHAT is more annoying than having a fine crop of apples blown to the ground? Not having a fine crop to be blown.

ISLINGTON is spending £1600 on gas lamps. A light bill.



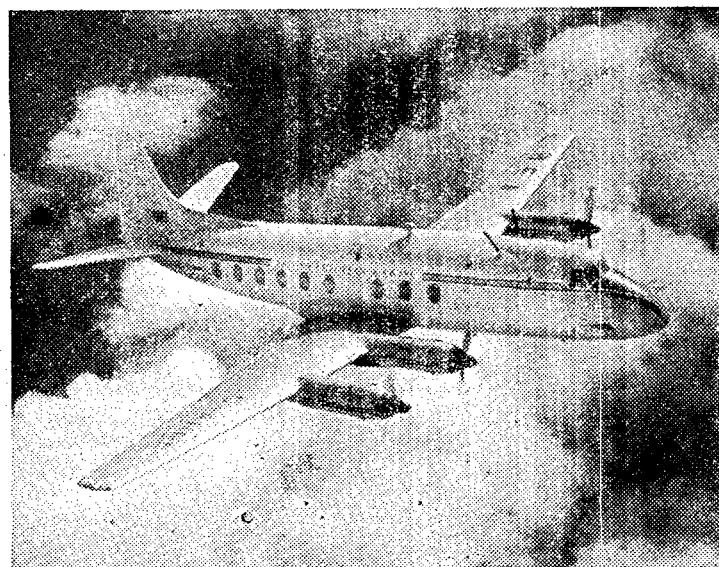
A MAN says he has been listening critically to his own voice for forty years. Must be a record.

Drama Through the Centuries

STUDENTS of the history of the British theatre will find many fascinating things at an exhibition at the National Book League's headquarters in Albemarle Street, London—open until December 2.

The growth of the drama from medieval times, when plays were performed in inn yards, is here illustrated by sections dealing with theatrical architecture, scenery, and costume, and by prints, drawings, playbills, and books.

One of the oldest exhibits is a manuscript part-book for Orlando in Robert Greene's play, *Historie of Orlando Furioso*. Greene, who lived from 1558 to 1592, once jealously wrote of Shakespeare as "an upstart crow beautified with our feathers."



THINGS SAID

THE fear of responsibility is one of the most serious weaknesses of our time.

Archbishop of York

THE normal child has three grades of manners: for school, in the street, and at home.

Headmaster of Wilson

School, Reading

DANGER, gentlemen working overhead.

Notice in a Kent town

I AM still patiently waiting for reports of a flying saucer having landed anywhere.

The Astronomer Royal

I ALWAYS think of an economist as a man who, to save wear on his two-guinea shoes, takes longer strides and thereby splits his three-guinea trousers.

Reader Harris, M P

TRUE PATRIOTISM

A BOLD suggestion that Britain and other free nations should be prepared to surrender some of their independence for the sake of peace was recently made by the Archdeacon of London, the Venerable O. H. Gibbs-Smith.

He referred to a letter to *The Times*, signed by 12 people, which said that "without the establishment of world federal government—perhaps by intermediary stages—in our opinion no ultimate peace can be assured."

The Archdeacon commented: "Of course, with many people, this is not a popular subject, as it is thought to run counter to the great British sentiment of patriotism. But I venture to suggest that the best patriots in our country today are those who would support the surrender of some measure of national sovereignty in order to deliver their beloved country from the nightmare possibility of a third world war."

JUST AN IDEA

As Montaigne wrote: A wise man sees as much as he ought, as much as he can.

Editor's Table

PETER PUCK
WANTS TO KNOW

If boasters ever
reach a retiring
age



YOU can get a lot of fun out of an old car. Have some rattling good runs.

□

A FATHER bought his little girl a 21-piece doll's teaset. She will soon increase the number of pieces.

□

EVERY boy worth his salt should know how to cook. Most can at a pinch.

□

A CRITIC complained that a soprano could not get her two top notes. She should have insisted on being paid by cheque.

Henry Ford's Ideal

ESTABLISHED with funds left by Mr Edsel Ford and his father, Mr Henry Ford, and now holding the colossal total of 230 million dollars, the Ford Foundation has recently declared its aims.

The Fund's resources are to be used chiefly on "activities that promise significant contributions to world peace and the establishment of a world order of law and justice."

A very wide field is envisaged by such a programme, which would seem to cover much of the ground covered by the United Nations. The seven men who are trustees of the Foundation say, however, that they are conscious of the relatively small part which any private Foundation can play in meeting the challenge; but they rightly add that the power of free men and women, when moved by faith and high purpose, is limitless.

Working in the true spirit of the United Nations, yet with a freer hand to give a little help here and a little more there, the Foundation—which is the world's greatest Trust Fund—will set out toward the goal which Henry Ford himself always had in view—Worldwide Peace.

FESTIVE FRONT

THE National Garden Guild is emphasising the contribution to the Festival of Britain which most people can make by growing flowers. They have issued a sixpenny leaflet suggesting ways in which a display of flowers can be maintained all through the Festival from May to September.

It is pointed out that even those without gardens and land can have hanging-baskets and window-boxes. Austria is given as an example of a flowerful country where, relatively few people have flower gardens but mostly grow them on balconies.

Let us show our colours next year—in living blooms!

The Soul is Safe

O FACES that look forward,
eyes that spell
The future time for signs, what
see ye there?
On what far gleams of portent
do ye dwell?
Whither, with lips like quivering
leaves and hair
Back-blowing in the whirlwind,
do ye stare
So steadfast and so still? Oh,
speak and tell!
Is the soul safe? Shall the sick
world be well?
Will morning glimmer soon, and
all be fair?

O faces, ye are pale, and some-
what sad,
And in your eyes there swim the
fatal tears;
But on your brows the dawn
gleams cold and hoar.
I, too, gaze forward, and my
heart grows glad;
I catch the comfort of the golden
years:
I see the soul is safe for evermore.

Robert Buchanan



Christmas is Coming
At a North London factory these girl apprentices are busy making crackers for Christmas parties.

CARTOONS BY RAPHAEL

THE Raphael Cartoons at the Victoria and Albert Museum are on view again to the public after eleven years.

They are the most important exhibit in the museum as well as the most important surviving examples of High Renaissance Art. They were too large and fragile for transportation out of London in 1939 so a special air-conditioned shelter was made for them.

The cartoons were bought for £300 in Genoa in 1623 on behalf of Prince Charles, later Charles the First of England, and are still part of the Royal Collection. They were lent to the Museum in 1865 by Queen Victoria and permission for their loan and exhibition has been granted by successive monarchs.

The cartoons, mainly showing episodes in the lives of St Peter and St Paul, were originally commissioned by Pope Leo X early in the 16th century as designs for tapestries to be hung in the Sistine Chapel of the Vatican. The tapestries were woven in Brussels and are now in the Vatican picture gallery.

Change of Scenery

THE pointed cowls of hop-oasts are gradually disappearing from the Kentish landscape.

With the introduction of electrically-driven fans in many oasts, the cowl which turned with every change of wind and forced the draught up through the slatted floors of the drying chamber, and then through the "hair cloth" and the hops which were spread on it, is no longer necessary.

Already many cowls have been replaced by a flat "blank" cover, and if this replacement continues the familiar white cowl "pointing like a giant finger down the wind" will soon be a thing of the past.

FESTIVAL FOOTBALL

ALL Football League clubs and a number of amateur clubs are to play matches in connection with the Festival of Britain.

The following international matches have also been approved: Argentina at Wembley on May 9, Portugal at Liverpool on May 19, Norway (amateur) at Middlesbrough on May 15, and Finland at Sunderland on May 10.

The First Great English Storyteller

GEOFFREY CHAUCER, who died on October 25, 1400—just five and a half centuries ago—was the first great English storyteller and, indeed, one of the three greatest figures in the annals of English literature. He was, moreover, the first writer to give English a permanent literary form; through him the cultivated East Midland dialect became the enduring expression of our literature.

The date of Chaucer's birth is uncertain, but it is at any rate safe to say that his life coincides roughly with the last half of the 14th century. Certainly all the most typical characters of the newly-consolidated and vigorous society that had come into being in the first half of the century are represented in his *Canterbury Tales*. Sharply drawn with humour and tenderness, his pilgrims are an epitome of medieval society in England.

Chaucer's father and grandfather were both citizens of London pursuing the trade of vintner, and their house in Thames Street was not far from London Bridge, over which pilgrims and other travellers in Chaucer's day passed on their way to the great South Road.

A Royal Servant

Geoffrey Chaucer's name appears in 1357 in the household book of Elizabeth, wife of Lionel, Duke of Clarence, third son of Edward the Third, when he is supposed to have been the page.

Probably in this capacity he was in the prince's retinue in the expedition of the king to France which ended with the peace of Bretigny. He was taken prisoner and the king paid £16 for his ransom. The next trustworthy record of him occurs in 1367, when he was valet in the household of Edward the Third with the salary of 20 marks a year.

The later Exchequer Rolls show that Chaucer was again connected with the Court, and his translation of *The Romaunt of the Rose* may belong to this period when he was much influenced by French poetry. He was employed on seven different diplomatic missions for the king and three times visited Italy. There he came under the influence of the great Italian writers of the century, Dante, Petrarch, and Boccaccio.

Many of the *Canterbury Tales* belong also to this period, which was a prosperous one for him, for he was then actively employed in life as Controller of the Wool Customs, and the Petty Customs, as Member of Parliament for Kent.

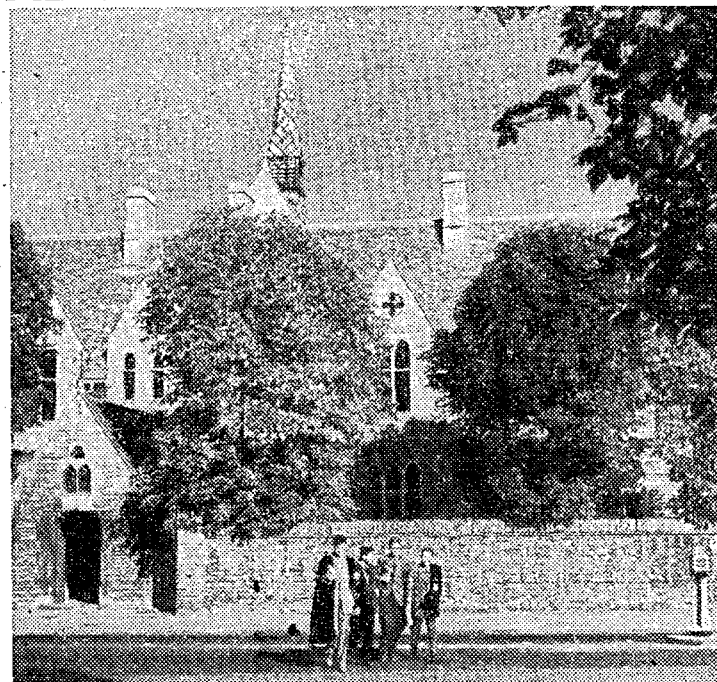
Then his fortunes turned. His powerful protector John of Gaunt, having married his second Duchess, Constance, daughter of Pedro the Cruel of Castile, went to Spain to prosecute his claims to the throne. In his absence, Chaucer lost all his offices, and while living in comparative poverty devoted himself to writing. The *Legend of Good Women* belongs to this period, and also the most typically English of *The Canterbury Tales*—those of the Miller, the Cook, the Wife of Bath, the Merchant, the Friar, the Nun, and the Priest.

In the year of John of Gaunt's return to England Chaucer was appointed Clerk of the Works. Among other important tasks he superintended the repairs at the Palace of Westminster, the Tower of London, and St George's Chapel, Windsor. Later he was pensioned by Richard the Second. Insufficiently so, it appears, for in the last year of his life he addressed to Henry the Fourth *The Complaint of Chaucer to His Empty Purse*.

Comfortably Pensioned

It was an effective appeal, for the king doubled his pension of 20 marks, so that the poet, once more in comfortable circumstances, took the lease of a house in the garden of the Chapel of St Mary at Westminster.

Here, on October 25, 1400, almost directly after the lease had been signed, he died, and was buried hard by in the Abbey—the first, and perhaps in some ways the greatest, of those who have claimed a place in Poets' Corner.



OUR HOMELAND

The newly-founded college of St Anthony, Oxford

Team Work in East Africa

How the three British East African territories of Kenya, Tanganyika, and Uganda are jointly solving their common problems is told in a recent report from the East African High Commission.

For instance, the report fore-shadows the expenditure of over £20,000,000 on better port and railway facilities, including deep water berths at the port of Dar es Salaam. Improvements to telephone and postal facilities include an experimental 100-mile radio link between Nairobi and Nakuru.

Experts are now inquiring into the causes of the "sudden death" disease which threatens the clove crop of Zanzibar, and they have also been experimenting with new methods of fighting the tsetse fly, one of the chief obstacles to successful cattle raising in tropical Africa.

Another problem which has engaged the experts' attention is the ever-present locust menace. The ravages of the locusts are now controlled by an army of 25 persons and 70 vehicles. Swarming areas are reported and carefully watched until the opportune moment arrives for the anti-locust army to strike.

In such ways as this these East African territories are pooling their resources for the common good.

HOLIDAY SCIENCE LECTURES

THE 121st series of children's Christmas lectures at the Royal Institution will be given by Professor E. N. da C. Andrade, who will speak on Waves and Vibrations.

The first of these courses of lectures was given in the Christmas holidays of 1826 and 1827, when they were called: *Lectures Adapted to a Juvenile Auditory*.

This season the lectures are at 3 p.m. on December 23 and 30, and January 2, 4, 6, 9, at the Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle Street, London, W.1. Non-members pay a subscription for the six lectures of 10s 6d if they are aged between ten and 17, and 21s if they are grown-ups.

Land For Italian Peasants

THE Italian Government has drawn up a land-reform programme giving 3,700,000 acres of private and public land in Southern Italy to 400,000 peasants. Many of the peasants, who are poor, have never seen a modern plough or tractor, and money is being made available to them for equipment.

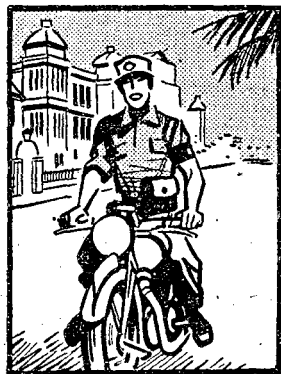
The Government is to build 14 main irrigation channels to carry water all over the regions, and will construct 215 miles of roads and a large number of two-roomed farmhouses, besides making electricity available. The 400 families from the hill villages of Santa Severina, in Calabria, are the first to benefit under the scheme and have received an average of eight or nine acres each.

KIDNAPPED—A fine picture-version of R. L. Stevenson's great romance of Jacobite Scotland will begin on this page next week.

Steps to Sporting Fame



Few people have made motor cycles as great a part of their life as the popular West Ham and Australian Test speedway rider, Aub Lawson.

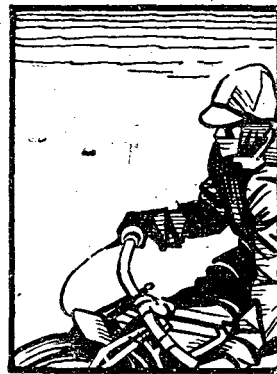


Born at Warialda, NSW, in 1916, Lawson rode for the first time as a Sydney post office messenger. In 1937 he was attracted to the speedway, and a year later rode for Australia against the English touring team.



Signed by Wembley and loaned to Middlesbrough in 1939, he quickly reached the front rank. Then came war, and Aub returned home to serve as a dispatch rider in the AIF, resuming speedway racing in 1945.

Aub Lawson



In 1947 he returned to England to ride for West Ham, and has had many successes. This year he won the Match Race Championship, previously held against all challengers for three years by Jack Parker.

THE OLD VIC AND ITS CURIOUS HISTORY

IT is good that the famous London people's theatre, which everybody calls the Old Vic, is open once again, with Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* on its stage. The theatre was badly damaged in the war, but its reconstruction has made possible many modern features—without, however, the loss of its historic atmosphere. It certainly has a history!

It was opened in 1818 and was named *Royal Coburg Theatre*, after the King of the Belgians, Queen Victoria's best-loved uncle. It was not a success, for in those days the neighbourhood around it was rough and lawless, foot-pads prowled, and respectable citizens were afraid to visit the *Coburg*, although the proprietor advertised that the roads to it would be guarded and the safety of patrons secured by his own specially-appointed patrols. An adventurous sort of theatre-going!

Looking-Glass Curtain

In an effort to attract people the proprietor installed in 1822 what became one of the sights of London—a huge looking-glass curtain which could be raised or lowered. The idea was that, in the intervals, the audience could sit and admire themselves in this gilt-framed mirror—seeing themselves from the actors' point of view, and waving to friends.

After many years it had to be removed because its immense weight threatened to pull down the roof from which it hung.

In 1833 the theatre was renamed the *Victoria Theatre*, and continued its career of presenting crude melodrama. Many a top-

hatted villain was hissed on its boards and many a wavy-haired hero cheered.

The Old Vic as we know it dates from 1880, when a public-spirited woman named Emma Cons took it over and re-opened it as *The Royal Victoria Coffee Music Hall*. Associating coffee with it may seem puzzling to us, but in her day there was often excessive drinking in music halls, and she wanted one for working-class people where no alcoholic liquor was sold.

Her intentions and character are well described in an inscription at the Old Vic in which we read of her: *Lover of Beauty and pupil of Ruskin, she yet gave up the life of an artist for social work, so deeply did she sympathise with those who lack many of the good things of life.*

Among her beneficent aims was, to provide wholesome and joyous recreation at a low price.

Shortly after she had re-opened the theatre there ap-

peared on its stage, playing a violin, a little girl of seven. She was Lilian Baylis, the niece of Emma Cons. When Lilian grew up she abandoned a musical career to help her aunt manage the Old Vic.

At that time the entertainments consisted chiefly of concerts, oratorio, scientific lectures, temperance meetings, and variety. Lilian Baylis believed that people without much money can appreciate good drama and opera as well as rich people, and she aimed at raising the artistic standard of the Old Vic. She began by producing selections from the operas. For a long time one could go in for twopence, and even less by buying a half-crown book of tickets!

Home of Shakespeare

When noble Emma Cons died in 1912, Lilian Baylis re-named the theatre *The People's Opera House*, and in 1914 Shakespeare's plays were performed there for the first time. This was the beginning of its fame as "the home of Shakespeare," and in the next nine years all of Shakespeare's plays were performed there.

Many of Britain's most talented actors and actresses appeared at the Old Vic, and it attracted audiences from all parts of London.

Lilian Baylis died in 1937, after creating a real people's theatre. She had lived to see her dream come true. The Old Vic has gloriously vindicated her faith in the artistic taste of our people, and the spirit of the Old Vic has spread throughout our land and across the seas.

Sugar Beet Record

THE British Sugar Beet Corporation expects the sugar beet crop harvested this autumn to be a record.

Sample roots taken from fields all over the country showed an average weight increase of 33 per cent, compared with the same period last year. It is expected that the 18 factories will deal with a total quantity of nearly 4,750,000 tons and that they will have to work night and day, seven days a week, until all the crop has been processed.

Plane For a Museum

THREE years ago a tiny bullet-shaped plane detached itself from a "mother" aircraft high in the stratosphere above Muroc Dry Lake in California. A young American test pilot, Captain Charles Yeager, held firmly on to the plane's control column and fired in quick succession four rocket units mounted in the tail of the aircraft.

The little Bell X-1 research monoplane leapt forward under the impact of 6000 lbs of thrust, undulated slightly as the air set up compressibility waves, and then streaked through the freezing atmosphere faster than the speed of sound.

Data gathered by Yeager has since been used in the design of much faster aeroplanes and improved propulsive units. Last year the Bell X-1 was reported to have flown at nearly 2000 mph, about three times the speed of sound.

Now the historic little machine has made its last journey. Recently it was carried beneath the fuselage of a Superfortress to the American National Air Museum in Washington, where it will end its days in honourable retirement.

TOURIST PIONEER

NORWEGIANS have been hailing an Englishman as the "patron saint of Norway's tourist industry." In 1848 Thomas Bennett arrived in Norway, and two years later founded his own travel agency, which was not only the first travel bureau in Scandinavia but the second in the world. Thomas Cook having started his business in the 40s.

Bennett was a man of many parts. He produced prefabricated houses a hundred years ago, conducted a big business in farm produce and formed a hansom-cab service in Oslo. He travelled widely in Norway, planning tours and compiling time-tables, which opened up the country in a way that had never been done before.

Education in Thailand

THE recently-published report of an education mission to Thailand reveals that although the State provides elementary education for children up to the age of eleven, and six years of secondary education up to 17, only about three children out of four between the ages of seven and 14 attend school and over two-thirds of the population are illiterate.

Nevertheless, it is stated that the Thailand educational system compares very favourably with other systems in Asia and the Far East, and that the percentage of school-age population at school in Thailand is above the average for the whole world.

HEAPS OF COAL

DR T. A. TOWNEND, President of the Institute of Fuel, told an audience at Margate not long ago that the amount of coal consumed in a year in Britain was sufficient to bury the City of London up to the height of its tallest buildings! The amount of coal we had used during the past century was sufficient to bury the whole of Britain to a depth of four to five inches. He estimated that our coal reserves should suffice for at least 200 years.

Pioneers 38. HEINRICH HERTZ, who made radio possible

In 1873 Clerk Maxwell, brilliant British mathematician, had reasoned out the existence of electromagnetic waves. Fourteen years later Heinrich Hertz, German physicist, demonstrated their existence with apparatus that generated, detected, and measured the waves.

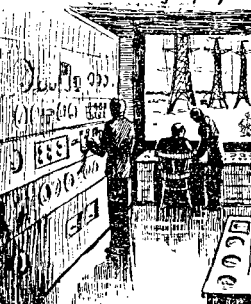


Hertz's generator was simple. Two small metal balls were connected to an induction coil, and then attached to larger metal spheres. When the spheres became fully charged oscillation was set up and vivid sparks flashed between the small balls.



These generated sparks set up invisible electromagnetic waves, as Hertz discovered with his resonator—a circle of wire the ends of which did not quite meet. In this tiny gap sparks flashed whenever he set up an electric current.

Hertz thus proved that electric energy in waves could be sent from place to place, from generator to receiver, WITHOUT WIRES, and at the speed of light. That great discovery led to wireless telegraphy.



Another complete new story of

Morgan of the Mounties

FULL DRESS
OCCASION

by Frank S. Pepper



CORPORAL TIM MORGAN, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, was brushing his scarlet tunic with loving care when he gave a guilty start at the sound of footsteps approaching his Hemlock Valley office.

Hurriedly he hung the scarlet tunic out of sight in a cupboard. He was very proud of it, and it was a great disappointment to him that he hardly ever had a chance to wear it. The full dress uniform was for ceremonial occasions, and in Hemlock Valley there were no ceremonies. Tim had to be content with his much less picturesque but far more serviceable, drab-coloured outfit for the workaday tasks which filled his time in Hemlock Valley.

Tim turned as Sergeant Harding, from headquarters, entered the post.

"So you'll be going on leave in a fortnight, Corporal?" asked Harding. "You seem to have everything under control in the Valley. There's nothing that your deputy can't handle? Nothing outstanding?"

"I'll clear everything before I go," Tim promised. "There's only one important job—escorting the Indian Agent to Rock Landing for the annual pay-out of the treaty money."

"That's what I came to talk to you about," the sergeant said. "According to the reports the weather has turned bad early this year. It might be wise to postpone the trip until the snow hardens. Your deputy can handle it."

Tim looked shocked.

"We couldn't do that," he protested. "The Indians wouldn't understand. They expect to get their treaty money every year exactly on the day it's due. We can't break faith. Of course I'll make the trip."

"The Agent this year is a new chap, name of Scobie. Bit of a tenderfoot," warned the sergeant. "If conditions are bad you may find yourself with trouble on your hands."

Tim was determined not to be put off.

"I'll chance that," he insisted. "Where do I pick him up?"

"He's at Fort Johnson, hiring equipment and a dog team. It should take you a week to reach Rock Landing from there," Harding answered. "But if you run into trouble don't say I didn't warn you. I still think it would be easier to wait for more settled conditions and to leave the trip to your deputy."

Tim just shook his head and let his eyes stray thoughtfully towards the cupboard. The sergeant sensed that Tim had something on his mind, but knew that it was no use pressing him for an explanation.

CORPORAL TIM arrived in Fort Johnson in his old car, which had had a hard battle through the snow the last few miles, in spite of being fitted with chains.

Fort Johnson was a trading

post at the end of the highway. From there to Rock Landing there were no roads and travelling by car would have been impossible even in summer.

Tim met Scobie, the Indian Agent, outside the small, wooden-fronted hotel.

Scobie was wearing brand-new furs, and was waiting proudly to show Tim the equipment he had secured. It was plain from his manner that he considered that, even though he was new to the North, he had driven a clever bargain.

The dog team were certainly a fine-looking lot. The lead-dog, called Pete, was a majestic creature which carried its tail high and looked capable of facing the worst blizzard in the world.

Tim took one look and deflated Scobie with a few brief words.

"Their feet are too big," he said.

Then he looked at the piled sledge. Apart from a tent, an oil-burning stove, cans of fuel,



Beginning next week—a grand new series of stories by Geoffrey Trease of stirring adventure in the days of Queen Elizabeth.

and food for the dogs there were travelling cases, bags, and crates. Tim whose sole luggage consisted of a large paper-wrapped parcel carried under his arm, uttered a shocked gasp.

"Man, you can't expect the dogs to haul all that," he protested.

In spite of Scobie's protests he insisted in throwing out three large travelling cases containing the Agent's personal belongings, and insisted that they be left at the hotel.

"I don't like the look of these dogs," Tim declared flatly. "I'm going to try to get some others. You've been swindled!"

Tim scoured the town, but with winter so close there were few dogs to be had. The dealer who had done business with Scobie had pulled out, no doubt delighted at having disposed of dogs which no knowledgeable traveller would have accepted.

Tim arrived back at the hotel with one single, lean, vicious, half-starved-looking huskie at his heels.

"This is Pompey," he told Scobie. "He was the only dog left in town worth having. We must take him along and hope for the best."

Scobie's eyes widened as he looked from Pompey to his own burly, lively-looking dogs, and decided that Tim was crazy.

"That thing!" he exclaimed. "You must be out of your mind." "We'll see," grunted Tim.

THEY made an early start next morning, so as to cover as much ground as possible while the daylight lasted.

No snow was falling, but Fort Johnson had been left only a few miles behind when they found themselves facing an icy, numbing, sub-zero wind.

The dogs, with Pete in the lead, set off at a spanking pace. Tim and Scobie, on snowshoes, could scarcely keep up with them.

"Didn't I tell you they were a fine lot?" yelled Scobie above the shrieking wind.

But it was too good to last. The pace slowed. By mid-morning the dogs were hardly pulling at all. Then all at once, Pete sat down in the snow and refused to budge. All the others, except the scorned Pompey, followed suit.

It was then that Scobie learned where he had made his first mistake.

Tim showed him where the spread pads of the large-footed dogs had become clogged with snow which had hardened into ice until they could no longer walk.

It took Tim an hour to clean the dogs' feet, and to cut away tufts of hair that were helping the snow to accumulate. They started off again, but the dogs were still scarcely pulling.

"You see how it is?" questioned Tim. "You thought that because they were big the dogs must be strong? A tenderfoot idea. They're put on fat because they're bone idle. At this rate we'll never make Rock Landing in a month, much less a week."

Tim insisted on lightening the sledge still more, by dumping cases of canned food which Scobie had brought. Scobie protested in horror that they would starve.

"We can eat fish, the same as the dogs," Tim insisted.

Scobie eyed the parcel Tim had brought with him.

"So far, everything we've dumped has been mine," he pointed out sourly. "Do we have to hang on to this bundle of yours?"

"Whatever else goes, that stays until we get to Rock Landing," Tim told him.

With cleaned feet Pete stepped out proudly again, yet still the team wasn't making the speed it should have done under a leader as good as Pete appeared to be.

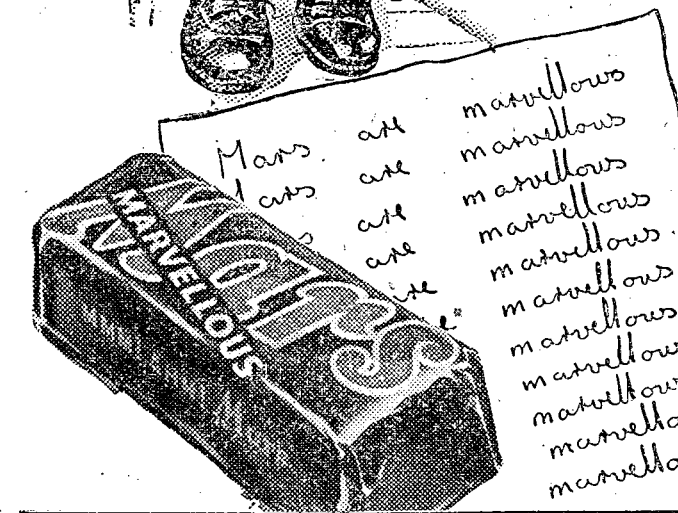
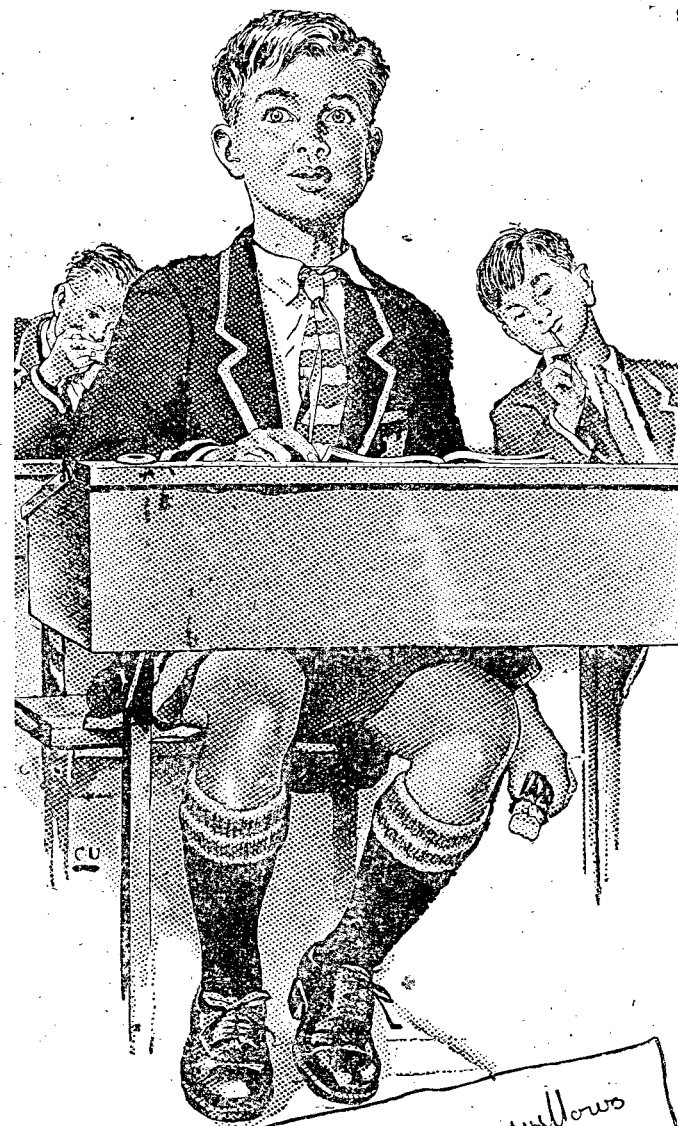
Tim slipped his fingers under the traces and let out a roar.

"I knew it!" he roared. "He isn't pulling enough to drag a broody hen off a nest."

He unharnessed the team, putting Pompey in the lead, and relegating the proud but false Pete to a place in the rear where the sledge would nudge him if he slacked too much.

DURING the whole of three days the biting wind stayed in their faces. There were occasional sharp blizzards when

Continued on page 11



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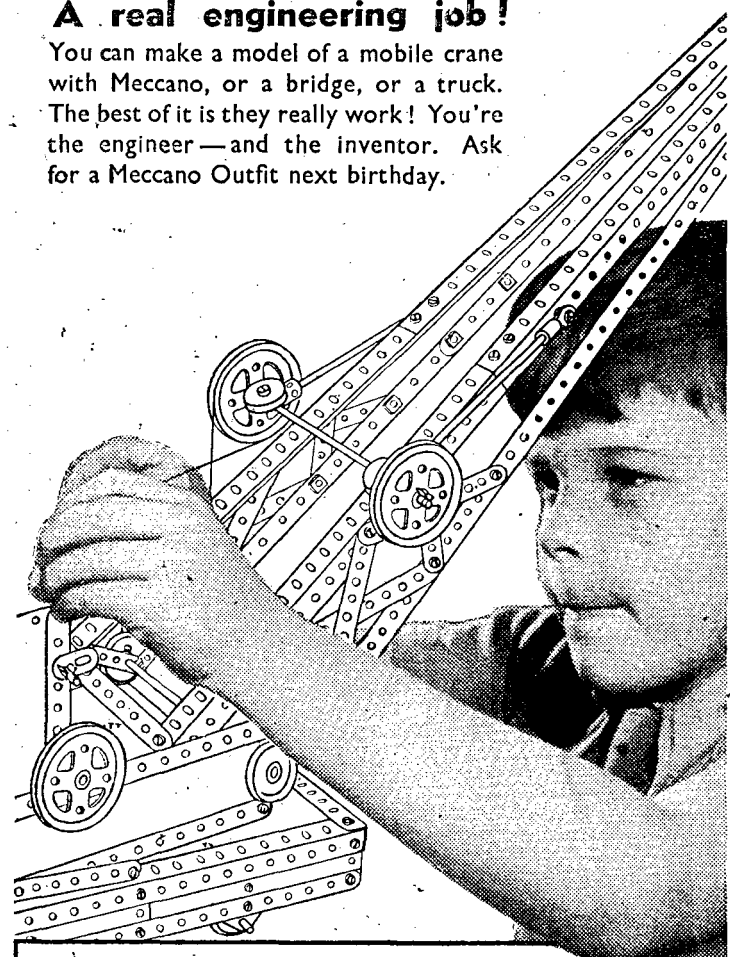
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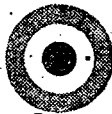
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Age-Old Ram in the Sky

By the C.N. Astronomer

THE constellation of Aries, the celestial Ram of remote antiquity, is now high in the south-east sky in the evening after about 7 o'clock. The obtuse angle formed by its three chief stars may be easily identified some way to the east of the Great Square of Pegasus—Hamal of second magnitude, Beta of third, and Gamma of fourth being obvious.

These with a number of faint stars complete a constellation which is of much interest and importance because Aries is the First Sign of the Zodiac through which the Sun appears to pass in its annual course, and the fact that these stars symbolise a Ram.

The ancient pastoral peoples of Chaldea, to whom flocks and herds were their most treasured possessions, gave the first place in the Heavens to their sheep and second place to their cattle, represented by the next Zodiac constellation Taurus the Bull. This idea early acquired a religious significance as an emblem for sacrifice, as in the instance of Abraham and other records in the Old Testament.

Eventually it became the symbol of one of the most beautiful of Christian ideas, the *Agnus Dei*, or Lamb of God, the greatest of all sacrifices.

This constellation also symbolised a number of mythological stories in ancient times, the most famous of which is the classical Greek narrative of the quest for the Golden Fleece.

Alpha-in-Aries, known generally as Hamal (an Arabic name meaning sheep) is the Sheep Star of the sky and is known as such throughout the world, just as Sirius has been known for ages as the Dog Star. Hamal has also been called the Ram's Eye.

It is a sun with a diameter much greater than that of our Sun and upwards of two million miles, so Hamal would be about 2½ times wider. It radiates about 50 times more light and heat but from a distance 4,800,000 times greater, Hamal's light taking 76 years to reach us.

Double Suns

Beta-in-Aries, also known by its Arabic name of Sharatan since ancient times, is of particular interest since it is composed of two suns. The smaller, like a fiery planet, revolves round the larger and more central sun in a period of 107 days. They are at an average distance apart of about 28,500,000 miles.

Gamma-in-Aries is also composed of two suns which constitute a very beautiful pair of similar brilliance, and are perceptible in even a small astronomical telescope.

A somewhat fainter star, Kappa, to be seen a little way below Hamal, is also composed of two suns, but very different to those of Beta, for those of Kappa are very close together, an average distance of only about seven million miles separating them.

They revolve very rapidly round their common centre of gravity in only 15½ days. Spectroscopic analysis of their light reveals them to be very hot suns in an early state of stellar evolution.

G. F. M.

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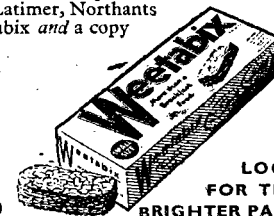
Mother's happy because she's saving every breakfast—and sugar was a real problem till Weetabix doubled the amount! Dad's pleased because he likes to see young Judy (quite apart from himself!) tucking into a nourishing breakfast she really likes. And Judy's happiest of all. "Super!" she says with her mouth full. "Sweetabix, I call it!"

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LOOK
FOR THE
BRIGHTER PACK

BEDTIME CORNER

Mr Miser the Missel Thrush

NONE of the birds in Honey-bottom Lane liked Mr Miser. Not only was he quarrelsome and bossy, but greedy as well. When any Starling, Sparrow, Greenfinch, or Titmouse found a good feeding place, they liked their relations and friends to come and share the feast. But that was not the way of Mr Miser the Missel Thrush.

Any bird coming near his feeding place was quickly hustled away. That didn't matter much in spring, summer, or early autumn, for then there were masses of food for everyone. But when winter approached it was different.

Mr Miser knew that, of course. Quite early in October he had chosen the finest hawthorn bush, one simply bowed down with red haws, for himself. And if any other bird dared to perch there, he flew at them in such a rage they didn't stop for a single berry.

Before long all the other hips and haws and blackberries along the lane were eaten up, and the birds had to fly far and wide in search of food.

And still Mr Miser guzzled alone.

"It isn't fair," the birds said, "that he should have all that when we have to work so hard to get food." So they called a meeting to see if anyone had any suggestions about what could be done.

Many suggestions were made and rejected, until the smallest bird there, a Blue Tit, said: "None of us can do anything against him alone;

he's too big. But if we banded together and went in a large party and mobbed him, we could drive him away long enough for us all to snatch a meal."

Eventually they all agreed to try this plan. And when Mr Miser found himself surrounded by

a fluttering, pecking, shrieking flock of angry birds, it wasn't long before he took to his wings and fled as fast as he could.

And when he at last dared to return, every one of those berries had gone!

So now greedy Mr Miser, too, has to work hard flying here, there, and everywhere in search of food.

JANE THORNICROFT



Morgan of the Mounties

Continued from page 9

they could see no more than a few yards ahead.

By the end of that time Pompey was doing almost all the work.

On the fourth day, in spite of lightening the load with everything they could jettison apart from Tim's mysterious parcel, Pompey could pull no more.

"We'll get no more work out of them," Tim declared. "We'll just have to turn them loose and let them run behind."

"Who is going to pull the sledge?" cried Scobie.

"We are!" Tim assured him grimly.

By the end of the fifth day Scobie was reeling unsteadily, hardly able to pull at all, almost exhausted. Tim hoped that a night's rest would restore him, but by morning he could hardly stand. Badly-tied snowshoes had raised blisters which had broken.

"Why didn't you tell me about this before? I could have done something about it. Now it's too late. You won't even be able to walk," Tim said furiously. "There's nothing for it. We'll have to make the rest of the trip in one clear run, and you must ride on the sledge."

THEY threw off the tent, the stove, the spare fuel. They made a last meal of fish and buried the rest. They got rid of everything except the money bag and the mysterious parcel, which Tim stubbornly refused to part with on any account.

Tim knew that he was gambling on his own strength holding out. If they failed to make

Rock Landing before nightfall without either tent or stove they would be in a bad way.

Tim shouldered the traces and put his head down into the biting wind. He stumbled on; hauling his companion on the sledge, the dogs following behind.

They made the Landing with an hour to spare. Tim was almost all in as delighted Indians surrounded the sledge. They had been on the look-out for hours, confident that the treaty money would arrive and that the "Guyment" would not let them down.

Tim, a bent, fur-clad figure, tucked his parcel under his arm and headed for one of the cabins.

Scobie was being assisted to the chief's house. Tim called back over his shoulder.

"Don't start to pay out until I'm ready. It wouldn't be legal without the presence of a Mountie."

A QUARTER of an hour passed; then a great shout went up as Tim reappeared. A transformed Tim. He had shed his furs. He was dazzlingly clad from head to foot in full ceremonial uniform—scarlet tunic, and gold-braided breeches.

"You can begin now," he grinned at Scobie. "How do I look? This uniform was what was in the parcel. Now you know why I wouldn't have missed this for anything. It's the only day in the whole year that I get a chance to wear full dress!"

THE SILVER GENTLEMAN makes his bow next week in the first of a new series of thrilling tales by Geoffrey Trease.

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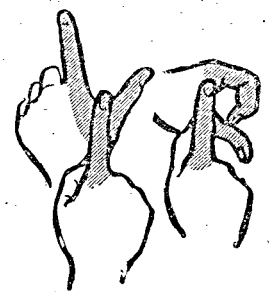


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New Model

THE small son of the house was entertaining the visitor till his mother arrived.

"And how old is your little brother?" asked the visitor.

"Oh, he's a late 1948 model," replied the ardent young motorist.

Guess What?

My velvet wings are coloured bright,
Each slashed with scarlet,
black, and white.
I often seek a flowery bank;
My name suggests a naval rank.

Answer next week

Train Due!

JOHN arrived at the station with 20 minutes to wait until his train was due. If he had been 10 minutes earlier he would just have caught the 3.18, which was running a quarter of an hour late. Which train did he catch?

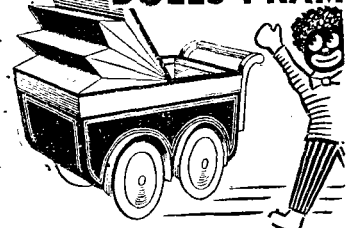
Answer next week

Good Salesman

HE said he was an artist, but his work was far from good. When he was asked if he ever sold his pictures he untruthfully said yes.

"Do you really?" exclaimed the questioner. "Then come down to my office in the morning. You are just the kind of salesman I have been looking for."

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Jacko's Little Piggie



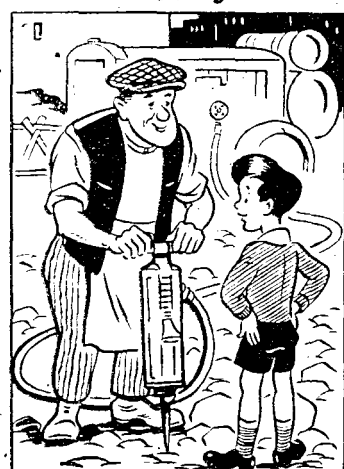
JACKO had been to the market to collect a small pig bought by Father Jacko. At first Jacko tried to make the piglet walk "at heel," but this little piggie wanted to run all the way home. So Jacko popped him into a sack. He set it down at the bus stop, but after a few minutes the piglet grew restive. The bus queuers could hardly believe their eyes when the sack apparently came to life. Jacko thoroughly enjoyed the sensation—until the piglet escaped and made off as fast as his little legs could carry him!

Quest

WHAT did the worried needle need?

Twas in a haystack, twas indeed,
And searching round—in vain,
alas!—
To find a piece of cotton-grass!

Roddy



"I suppose you do your gardening with it, too!"

Figure Poem

ASTRONOMY is 1-derful,
And interesting 2.

The ear 3 volves around the Sun.
Which make a year 4 you.

The Moon is dead and calm.

By law of phy-6 great:

It 7 where the stars alive

Do nightly scintill-8.

If watchful Providence be-9
With good in-10-ions fraught,
Did not keep up its grand design
We soon should come to 0.

The Editor Regrets

AT any rate (said the would-be author) I have discovered that writing is not a thankless task. Everything I write comes back to me with thanks.

Riddle-My-Name

My first is in charm, not in glamour;
My second's in ballet and dance;
My third is in English, not grammar;
My fourth is in glimpse, not in glance;
My last is in castle and mansion and palace—
And here is a girl who is hidden in "Alice."

Answer next week

Not So Lonely

A FUNNY old fellow named Jan,

Lived alone in a small caravan.
Except for six dogs,
Several cats, and some frogs,
Which he fed on black treacle and bran.

St Martin's Little Summer

THERE is an old tradition that round about St Martin's day, November 11, there will be a spell of fine, warm weather. Many years ago farmers would often put aside certain work which had to be done out of doors for St Martin's Little Summer—and quite often their trust in the old belief was justified.

An old country saying is: "If there is ice that will bear a duck before Martlemas there will be none that will bear a goose all winter." Records bear out the saying, for when snow has been experienced before the second week in November the winter as a whole has been comparatively mild.

Stale

THE young diner strongly criticised some pastry served to him.

"Sir," said the irate chef, when the complaint was reported, "I was making pastry before you were born."

"Quite likely," replied the youth unperturbed. "But that is no reason for selling it now."

Farmer Gray Explains

A Delicate Beauty. Backwards and forwards the butterfly fluttered, until Don thought it would never stop.

At last it settled on a thistle. Its wings were a tawny-orange, spotted with black; the corners of the forewings bore white marks. Don thought the butterfly even more beautiful when its wings suddenly closed. For the undersides were a soft pinkish tint, delicately traced with a network of silvery, brown, and white markings.

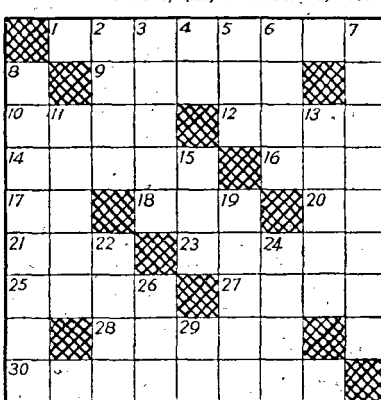
"A Painted Lady," said Farmer Gray, listening to Don's enthusiastic description of the butterfly. "Painted Ladies are visitors from the Continent. Unlike the Tortoiseshells and Peacocks, which hibernate here, Painted Ladies cannot endure the rigours of an English winter."

Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 Behind all others. 9 Ventured. 10 Fragrant ointment. 12 Existed. 14 To move with haste. 16 Japanese copper coin. 17 Heraldic term for gold. 18 To eat the evening meal. 20 Alternating current. 21 To occupy a horizontal position. 23 A hardwood tree yielding nuts. 25 A bone of the forearm. 27 Famous London picture gallery. 28 Railway car in which meals are served. 30 In the direction of the rising sun.

Reading Down. 2 Slothful. 3 Nominates. 4 Doctor. 5 A gull. 6 Poems. 7 A wooden plate. 8 Complete in itself. 11 A Spring month. 13 To perform anew. 15 To make a knight. 19 One of the disciples. 22 Finishes. 24 A nobleman. 26 Small island in a river. 29 Compass point. Asterisks indicate abbreviations. Answer next week

The Children's Newspaper, November 11, 1950



Sacked

TOM: Did you say your boss inspired you?

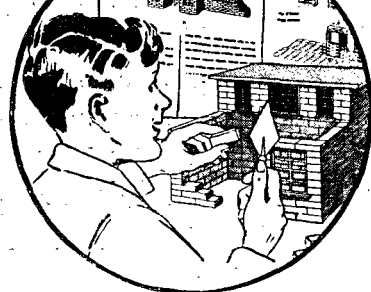
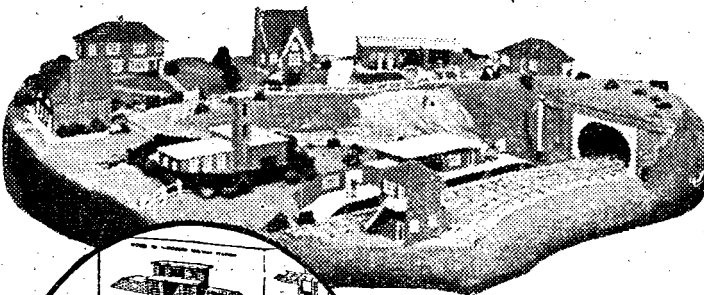
Bill: You misunderstood. I said he fired me with zeal and energy.

Last Week's Answers

Transposing and Beheading:

Legate, eaglet, eagle, gale, lag, la

Riddle-My-Name: Vera



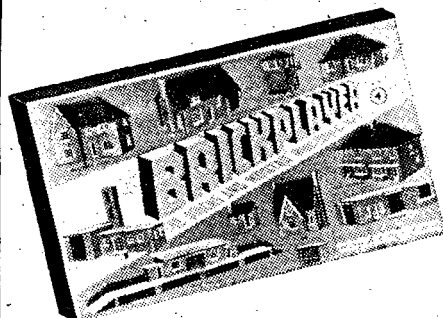
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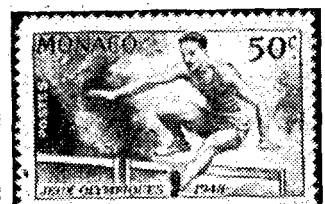


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